Unit # 3

This **I** Believe Essay-

Writing Guidelines and Summative Expectations

***You will be expected to contribute to a writing project by submitting your own statement of personal belief. This will be submitted as a pod cast with a completed script. This can be challenging!—It is very personal and no one else can do it for you. Please follow the suggestions below to guide you through this process.***

**Tell a story**: Be specific. Take a belief in your head and support it through the events of your life. Consider moments when the belief was formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story doesn’t need to be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be *real*. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your beliefs.

**Be brief**: Your statement should be between 350 and 500 words. That’s about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace.

**Name your belief**: If you can’t name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about belief. Also, rather than writing a list, consider focusing on one core belief, because three minutes is a very short time.

**Be positive**: Please avoid preaching or editorializing. Tell us what you do believe, not what you don’t believe. Avoid speaking in the editorial “we.” Make your essay about you; **speak in the first person.**

**Be personal**: Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. Read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

**Expectations:**

* **400-500 written statement: This I Believe statement/script**
* **4 minute MAXIMUM oral presentation of this statement**
* Proper presentation procedures (Oral presentation techniques) will be assessed.
* Oratory technique: Appropriate Volume, Fluency, Clear Pronunciation, No Direct Reading, and Enthusiasm.

Final Exam Procedure – Friday, December 16

* Students will present their I statements to the class via a pod-cast
* Classmates will comment on what they liked – pointing to something specific.
* They then will find something they would add to the presentation using a language frame.
* Finally they will fill out a graphic organizer telling how the essay was organized – they can listen as many times as needed.